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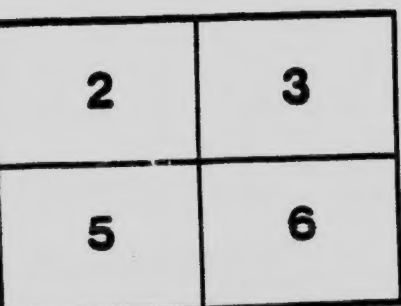
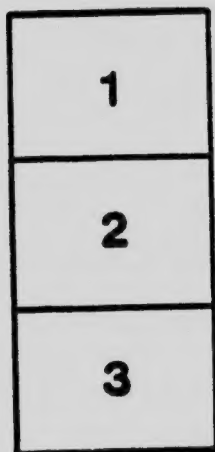
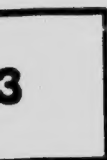
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EGG MONEY

The Rightful Perquisite of the Women on the Canadian Farms.

The egg market in Canada is a pure, national asset. Egg prices here are not dependent on an export demand as they were ten years ago; they are entirely due to the home demand, and they were never as high as in the past two years.

What the Home Market Has Done for Eggs.

Strictly fresh laid eggs range in price from 40c. to 60c. per dozen in Canada during the winter season. In such markets as Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton the farmer's wife can get, on an average of 45 to 50 cents per dozen for fresh laid eggs between the months of November and February. And during the other months she gets on an average of 25 to 30 cents per dozen.

On no other commodity has the rapidly developing home market of Canada had such effect as upon eggs. The high prices that prevail to-day in Canada for eggs are due to the rapid growth of our industrial centres, and to the fact that a protective duty of 3 cents per dozen has prevented an overwhelming influx of United States eggs from flooding and depressing the Canadian market.

Reciprocity and the Women Folk.

Under a system of free trade in natural products with the United States, the homes of the Canadian farmer would be sacrificed through the injury that would surely be done to the egg market. Wives and daughters now reap the profits of the egg sales, and the results are seen in the form of many an extra comfort and brightening touch about the country homes. By taking money out of the purses of these women-folk the Reciprocity Agreement would be exerting its worst influence—that of working against the best interests of the farm homes of Canada.

The Poultry Yard a Lucrative Department.

One of the most lucrative departments of farming in Canada to-day is the poultry yard. Because of the steady increase in the consumptive demands of Canadians, the export trade of the Dominion in eggs has dwindled from nearly twelve million dozen in 1902 to less than a hundred thousand dozen in the fiscal year ending March, 1911. There has been with this decrease in exports a corresponding increase in imports, especially from the United States. Our imports for consumption in 1902 were 772,572 dozen, and in 1911 the amount imported was 2,378,640 dozen. In spite of the protective duty of 3 cents per dozen Canada's demand for eggs is so great that she is importing about twenty-five times as many eggs as she is exporting. Why not preserve this great national asset for the wives and daughters of our farmers, and thus add to the domestic happiness of the land?

Canada's Increased Consumption.

The history and present condition of the egg industry in Canada

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can best be shown by the following statements of exports and imports in the years 1902 and 1911:

IMPORTS.

Imported into Canada for home consumption in 1902 with values:

	Quantity.	Value.
United States	762,802 dozen	\$168,795
Other Countries	9,770 "	682
Total	772,572	\$169,457

Since 1902 Canada has taken eggs from Hong Kong and Great Britain, both of which would have equal privileges with the United States under the Reciprocity Agreement.

The imports of eggs in the fiscal year 1911 for home consumption were:

	Quantity.	Value.
United States	2,212,727 dozen	\$417,857
Great Britain	12,940 "	2,128
Hong Kong	62,072 "	4,500
Other Countries	94,861	14,881
Total	2,378,640	\$439,066

EXPORTS

The following statement of Canada's exports of eggs shows conclusively that it is the home demand for this commodity that determines its price.

For fiscal year 1902:

	Quantity.	Value.
Great Britain	11,353,825 dozen	\$1,001,024
United States	287,435 "	35,764
Other Countries	43,848 "	6,744
Total	11,635,108	

Fiscal year 1911:

	Quantity.	Value.
Great Britain	7,067 dozen	\$2,428
United States	24,688 "	6,927
Other Countries	60,409 "	15,321
Total	92,164	\$24,676

Whereas in 1902, when millions of dozens were shipped to Britain, and Canada's markets were directly dependent on that export trade, to-day this country imports more eggs from Britain than she exports there, showing that in a decade the positions of the Motherland and the colony have been reversed, so far as eggs are concerned.

Not Due to the Climate.

"Why," you ask, "have Canada's exports in eggs decreased so rapidly?"

Simply because the farms of the country have not supplied eggs in the same proportion as the industrial centres and Western prairie lands have been supplied with people. The demand at home has increased more rapidly than the supply. Some say the falling off in Canada's egg supply is due to the cold, unfavorable climate. This cannot be so, for, in Russia with its frozen regions to the north, we see that in 1909 the exports amounted to 2,845 millions of eggs, valued at \$31,954,500, as against only 1,686 millions of eggs in 1899, valued at \$14,711,933. A hen would surely lay as well in Canada as in Russia.

Change From an Exporter to an Importer.

From the above statements it is an easy matter to see that Canada, with regard to eggs, has changed in the last ten years from an exporting to an importing nation. And all because of that home market. The farmers' wives and daughters have a bonanza here at home, in their own country towns and cities, which, for purposes of common usage are consuming cool storage eggs, but which for fresh table use must depend upon the neighboring farming community. There is now just protection enough in the duty of 3 cents per dozen to keep back a deluge of American eggs, but under Reciprocity the barriers would be down, and this country, which during the past year imported over two million dozen eggs from the United States would be literally buried by the shipments from other countries, principally the Republic south of us. It would mean, most assuredly, lower prices for eggs in Canada. Take, for instance, the 2,378,640 dozen eggs imported into Canada last year. They bore a duty of 3 cents per dozen, or in all \$71,359.20, which, had there been no tariff, would have been taken out of the Canadian market. In other words, the sellers of eggs in Canada were at least \$71,359.20 richer last year through the duty of 3 cents per dozen on foreign eggs.

The Vital Question.

The question then resolves itself into the following proposition: In spite of the present protective tariff of 3 cents per dozen on eggs, over two million dozen are coming into Canada per year; the only thing that saves prices from tumbling three cents per dozen right now is the protective duty; it is only to be expected then, that under the Reciprocity agreement the imports of eggs into Canada would be very much larger and that prices would be decidedly lower.

A Preposterous Proposition.

Canada laying herself open to a free supply of eggs from the United States alone, would be a most preposterous deal for the farmer of this country to sanction. Eggs are being produced in increasing volume all the year in the United States, which has a wider variety of climate than has Canada. In the cold winter months, when supplies in Canada and the Northern States are scarce, the Southern districts of our neighbors' territory are selling vast quantities of eggs from their warmly situated poultry farms. The

immense cold storage plants owned by the powerfully organized distributing agencies of the States are capable of preserving millions of dozens of eggs and shipping them to any market which offers the greatest advantages. In this way the markets of Canada, so high and firm in the winter months, would be subjected to the merciless pressure of cheap eggs from such centres as Chicago. Instead of the Canadian farmer being in the position to dictate and control his own prices, he would lose his independence and be ground under the heel of the trusts over the border. His home-made market would be gone and so would his home-made prices.

United States Would Pour in the Eggs.

Under a system of free trade in natural products there is no doubt that the United States would supply Canada with most of the eggs she would use. But Great Britain, Hong Kong and Russia, which now send eggs into Canada over the tariff wall, would also have free admission to our markets under the Reciprocity agreement. It has been pointed out above what a large producer Russia has become, and it is well known that in the warmer climates of the Orient, such as China, the surplus production is sufficient to feed Canada many times over. Chinese eggs have been entering Canada steadily during the past two years, and would be only too ready to join in the rush that would concentrate upon Canada in the event of Reciprocity. Here again would be an agency to work havoc in the home market. The weight of egg imports from the United States would be intensified by the crowding in of supplies from these other favored countries.

Loss of Revenue of Over \$70,000.

Besides losing their substantial, lucrative trade in eggs, the farmers, through the adoption of the Reciprocity pact, would lose the benefit to the nation of over \$70,000 revenue each year. This \$70,000 simply represents the tax placed upon foreign producers, who indirectly are helping to finance the great public works of Canada. In short, the rivals of the Canadian producer, by such payments as this \$70,000, are, under the present protective tariff, contributing to the up-keep of this country, which is preeminently a farmer's country.

What the Deal Amounts to.

Do the farmers of Canada wish to give away their home market in eggs, and, by so doing, effect the following results:

- (1) The subtraction of at least 3 cents per dozen from the prices which their wives and daughters now receive.
- (2) The disappointment among the women in the farm homes and the consequent lack of former comforts and bright adornments.
- (3) The loss of that independent position of controlling one's own home market and the humiliation of having a fine economic position undermined by cheap foreign eggs.
- (4) The loss to the national treasury of \$70,000 per year, and the resultant reduction of that amount from expenditures on services of use to the farmer and others in the country.



